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She regained awareness because something stung in her nose.
Her hand violently swung across her face, hitting something.
Porcelain shattered, the loud clinging causing her eyes to shoot open,
chest rapidly li ing o the surface.
Sweat stuck to her body, that disgusting hot cold making her want to
throw up.
Nausea consumed her mind instantly.
She fell back into a pillow, groaning.
Persia's palms stacked on her forehead, trying to calm the pounding
between her eyes.
"Oh for fucks sake, she's alive" someone said, their voice sounding
odd and far away.
"She broke my bowl!" another answered, obviously irritated.
"Come on Phastos, give the girl a break." a new voice, calmly said. It
was a lot closer to her than the others.
"And Kingo, watch your language."
Her eyes adjusted to the light, this time pushing herself o the
ground much slower.
She could identify them a er blinking a couple times.
Sersi sat right next to her, top lip tucked in.
Kingo had his arms crossed in the back, tapping his foot to the
ground.
Phastos picked up the remaining pieces of the thing she had sent
flying across the room.
"Sorry for breaking that bowl." she mumbled, "Next time maybe
don't rip me back into reality by making me feel like I have fire
termites colonizing my nasal area."
Kingo laughed, then put a hand over his mouth when Sersi sent him a
warning gaze.
She turned back over to her.
"We will be more gentle next time."
Persia squeezed her eyes shut a couple times, stretched her sore,
tight skin.
"How long?"
"A day, almost." Phastos said, finally putting the shards into a bucket.
" Thanks to me."
Persia tilted her head to the side, peaking right past his attitude.
He exhaled, pushed his glasses up.
Phastos walked up to her, put a so kiss on her forehead.
"I'm happy to see you, Persia."
-" in one piece and breathing.he added under his breath.
"Me too." she replied, giving him a weak smile.
She looked about the room, frowning.
"Where are we?"
"My house." Phastos exhaled, giving up on piecing the bowl back
together.
She nodded slowly, trying to remember what happened, her eyes
widened and she started pushing herself from the bed, Sersi putting a
hand to her shoulder.
"Don't get up so fast-"
"Maya-" she spoke rapidly, trying to brush past the woman, "Where is
she?"
" Here" the girl stepped from the corner of the room, a weight falling
from Persia's heart.
She had a weak smile sitting on her face, she didn't look like she
slept.
"I have my things all packed up, I'm going back home."
Persia blinked a couple times, then nodded.
"Okay,", a little rasp formed in her throat. "I was going to tell you
exactly that."
"I know, that's why I'm leaving, because you want me to." Maya
replied, coming up to her, then turned towards the others.
"Could we have a moment?"
Sersi dragged the others out behind her, Phastos rambling something
about it being ridiculous to be kicked out of his own house.
Maya chuckled, taking the seat which Sersi had sat in.
For a while, they just watched each other, silently.
"I know that I died." Maya finally exhaled, reaching for Persia's hand.
"Whatever you did, however you did it- i don't care. But please, it
almost cost you your own life too."
The words tumbled o her chest as if they hurt in her throat.
She couldn't look into Persia's eyes.
Persia opened her mouth to say something, but didn't know what.
 "I couldn't have lost you."
Maya was about to argue, when Persia stopped her.
"You can be as mad as you want, that won't change a thing. I would
do it a million times over."
Maya sighted dramatically, but couldn't force the corners of her lips
to stay straight.
Her head fell on Persia's hand and she drew in a breath.
"God, you're so stupid."
Persia pu ed a brief laugh, ran her hand through the brown strands
of her hair.
She was warm.
"I know, you're too for even risking to come with me."
Her body fell quiet, biting the inside of her cheek.
Maya noticed, li ed her head with a frown knitting her brows.
"What's wrong?"
"How-" she started, but didn't know how to ask properly.
"How did it happen?" Maya finished for her, straightened her back.
"I was with the other when the first of those dogs-"
" Deviants Maya. I wish they were just big dogs."
"Yeah sure, whatever." Maya waved her o with a laugh.
"They attacked and I just know that Sprite told me to find somewhere
safe."
She took a breath, looked down at her hands and started picking at
her nails.
"I ran across the whole village and kept passing Deviants and people.
At some point, I came across an injured boy and wanted to help him."
"I'm sorry you had to see that." Persia whispered, lowering her face
too.
"Then it all happened so suddenly.
I was enclosed by so many people and couldn't get out. They all froze
in place and-
somehow I did too even though I screamed for my feet to move."
Persia couldn't help herself, but rip her head up and take a sharp
breath.
" Mind control?"
Maya opened her mouth to disagree, but bit down on her lip before
she could.
"I don't know.-
We all started moving and by then I couldn't even hear anymore, as if
it wasn't my own consciousness anymore.
It felt like there was something else."
Visions of the people shooting bullets at the Deviant which she had
fought in the village flooded her mind.
Has one of the faces been familiar to her?
The feeling Maya described was accurate to what she felt when Druig
got into her mind.
Anger made her sore muscles twitch painfully.
"But then it stopped, I was alone with someone. He stared at me for a
second before telling me to get to the river."
"An eternal?" Persia questioned in disbelief.
"I didn't see his face properly." Maya replied, looking up.
"Well, obviously I didn't make it to the river before a building
collapsed on me."
She tried laughing it o, but Persia wrapped her arms around the girl
and the laughter turned into so cries.
"Oh Maya, I am so sorry."
"It's alright." the girl mumbled into her shoulder, feeling as the fabric
started seeping with wetness.
Persia held her tight until Ikaris knocked at the door to inform them
that the car was there to pick up Maya.
The girl peeled o her, gave her hand a big squeeze and put a kiss on
her forehead.
"Safe the world, Pear."
"I will, just for you." Persias replied, scrunching her nose.
"We still have to watch the sunrise together."
Maya wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and a bright grin
formed on her lips. A much needed laughter loosened in her chest.
"Of course."
The girl hesitantly stepped out of the room, stopped right on the
threshold.
She pressed her mouth shut and took a breath, forcing herself to not
look at Persia.
"Don't die, alright? I don't know if I could do all of this without you."
She didn't give Persia time to reply, but rushed out of the room too
quickly for her to even think of an answer.
Persia sank back into the pillow, taking an unsteady breath.
It was much quieter than she wanted it to be.
Sersi knocked against the door, gave her a warm smile.
"I'm proud of you for that."
"I guess." Persia scratched her neck.
"I told her I won't have her get hurt and she did. It was only right for
her to go."
The woman walked up to her, the smile falling into itself.
"That's actually what I needed to talk to you about."
Persia raised her chin, a tug in her mind catching her attention.
Like there was something important which she was forgetting.
"Your power-" Sersi started speaking, very slowly as if she was still
thinking about how to formulate her thoughts correctly.
"there's something you should know."
The hole in her mind was still there but it kept grasping her attention.
"When I got this sphere." she pointed at her chest, "Arishem told me
about the real purpose of our mission."
"I know." Persia spoke confused.
Sersi took a heavy breath.
"But he also told me something about you."
Persia pulled back slightly, trying to escape Sersi's words.
" You're not an eternal."
A thud rumbled her heart heavily, the void in her memories slowly
filling.
"What?"
Sersi shook her head.
"I'm sorry, I should have told you sooner."
"That's why I'm not like any of you." Persia muttered half minded, but
felt something was o.
This wasn't the first time she had heard it.
"That's why no one could help me."
"That's not true, Persia." Sersi tried reassuring her, "We all tried our
best to make you adjust to us over the years-"
"Hold on." Persia interrupted her, her face twisted in confusion.
" Over the years?"
Sersi froze, eyes widening a little further.
Persia could basically hear her heart skip a beat.
She messed up.
"Persia-"
"How long have you known?" Persia pressed through gritted teeth,
her words piercing through Sersi's skin like needles.
"Please-"
"How long? she repeated louder, balling her fists, "And who knows?"
Sersi helplessly dropped her head, "Ajak told us when we came here."
Persia pulled back, her lips turning downwards. She couldn't believe
any of what Sersi said.
"Came to this planet."
God, she prayed it was a cruel joke.
But the empty space in her memory started closing, connecting like a
puzzle.
"You all knew, this whole time."
Persia sco ed, pushing herself out of the bed even if her body hurt
terribly.
"And decided to keep it a secret."
"We wanted to protect you-"
" Protect me? Persia hissed, twisting the words in her mouth like
sour liquor.
"Protect me by feeding me lies and making me think this is all my
fault?
By- pushing me to think that I was the reason that I wasn't an
eternal."
"I wanted to tell you, Persia." Sersi begged, but it went into one ear
and out the other.
"I don't give a shit who decided on this!"
But she did.
And she knew it was Ajak.
All that time, it was the one she trusted most.
The pain of betrayal overpowered her grief and made her want to
scream her immortal soul out of her body.
"I didn't need to be protected, I needed the truth!" she yelled,
grabbing at her hair by the roots.
"I needed to understand."
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Sersi's eyes started watering. "No you don't get to cry right now." The girl sneered right into her face. "What did you expect, for me to be happy that I finally got some closure even if I know that my mind will get taken from me again if we don't save this planet?" Persia's words were harsh and cold, stinging as they flooded her mouth just as much as they did for Sersi. "Go on, tell me the whole truth, Sersi." she walked up to her with slow strides, her tone flickering lower. "It was never Druig messing with me, making me lose control, was it?" She wouldn't have thought she would ever speak a sentence like that. And she had no clue what answer would hurt less. " It was never Druig' Sersi replied. Persia came to a stand, her pupils widening until their black covered all color in her eye. The person she blamed wasn't to be blamed at all. "Arishem forbade him to use his mind control on you, a er he helped you." " Helped me? "Do you remember that day a er the wedding in the woods?" Of course she did. Nothing could make her forget it. She almost died that day, because of him. "Persia, he saved your life that day." The girl held her breath, blood rushing down to her feet and paling her face until it shone like chalk. "Where is he?" Sersi li ed her face, heaved at the sight of Persia. Her hair glistened white, the last bit of orange swallowed by it like she drained of life. "Tell me where he is." Sersi swallowed heavily, too shocked with her tone, her voice. She no longer sounded like herself. Odd and vibrating, like a frequency at the back of her mind. "Never mind it then," Persia wheezed shortly, rubbing her hands against each other. "I will find him by myself." A/N: This chapter is rough, but I wanted to finish this to start getting into the new plot point. The next chapter will be by far my favorite and i hope you all will love

it too!